

# Gidgegram

Established 1978

Email: Secretary: [Secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au](mailto:Secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au) or Treasurer: [treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au](mailto:treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au)

POSTAGE  
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## 78th Gidgegannup Agricultural Show

### The Gidge Show Sheaf Toss 2024 Results

#### Presenting our 2024 Champion Tossers!

Men's 1st Place: Cameron Greaves at 10m

Joint 2nd Place: Robert O'Shaughnessy &  
Kalam Thomson at 9.5m

Women's 1st Place: Elisa Millar at 5m

It was a fantastic turnout, and we can't wait to see  
you again next year. Last Saturday in October.

Regards, Tow Bar Joe.

**Proud Sponsors of  
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Men's 1st Place:  
Cameron Greaves at 10m



Women's 1st Place:  
Elisa Millar at 5m

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### GIDGEGANNUP AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (INC)

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

3.00pm

Sunday 23 February 2025  
Agricultural Hall



#### MEMBERS

Julie Aizlewood & family  
Alison Archer  
K Bamkin  
Margaret Baxter  
Red Berson  
Trevor Blight & Paul Carter  
Andrew Brine  
Bullsbrook Poultry Club  
Janelle & Hugh Burges  
Phillip Corbin  
Anne & Ben Davis  
Wayne Ellis & family  
Fiona Faulkner  
Val Forrest  
Peter & Sandra Harms  
Marcus & Zoe Hemsted  
Glen Henderson  
Beth McDonnell  
Collin & Diana Messervy  
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Janet Prudham  
June & Geoff Quinsee  
DE & JK Robertson  
Helen Shalders  
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Helen & Joe Sweet  
Sue Temby  
Ian & Dot Thomson  
Suzie Thompson  
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Carolyn Webster  
Shelley & Tata Williams  
Kiet Williamson  
Judy Wilson  
Jean Witcombe  
Dr Gina Wood  
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Gordon Caine  
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Doris Coombs  
Rosemary Corbin  
Sandra Harms  
Mr & Mrs J Higgins  
Barry Howard  
Gloria Metcalf  
Keith Robinson  
Ian Stannard  
Kay Williamson

Gidgegannup Agricultural Society (Inc)

[www.gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-agricultural-society-inc/](http://www.gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-agricultural-society-inc/)

Although every effort to remain totally impartial, the Editor and the individual members of the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society (The Publisher) cannot be made responsible for comments and opinions voiced in letters received.

# Gidgegram January 2025: Deadline 23rd December 2024 - Distribution January 2025

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(Groups > Gidgegannup Agricultural Society > Gidgegram)

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## What's On This Month!



December  
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Christmas Functions



LIVE MUSIC  
SUNDAY SESSION



1ST DEC - 1-4pm Charlie Scott  
8TH DEC - 1-4pm Dylan Hutchins  
15TH DEC - 1-4pm Carmine Napoli  
22ND DEC - 1-4pm Tyler Ian  
29TH DEC - 1-4pm Paul Mandelt

CHRISTMAS HOURS  
CLOSED  
23TH -26TH DEC  
OPEN  
27TH-31ST DEC



UFC 310  
Pantoja VS  
Asakura

8TH DECEMBER  
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# Pat's Chat

**Pat Harding, Gidgegannup Show commentator.**

Well, the dust has settled on the 2024 Gidgegannup Agricultural Show – *and what a wonderful show it was.*

My job as a commentator was made very much easier this year because there were so many activities I could talk about and pass on to showgoers.

There's no doubt the big Ag Society/CWA/City of Swan marquee was a great hit. It gave people the opportunity to see close up the talents of our young people in the Children's Sections. Not surprisingly the CWA ran out of scones! And so did many food vendors because of the huge demand.

The tree climb on the main arena was exciting and attracted large numbers of young people keen to show



their parents how it should be done and another activity that attracted a very large crowd was the closely-contested Pygmy Goat racing - that was great fun.

Not too many people realise just how much hard work actually goes into a show of this size and, once Christmas is over, planning will start in earnest and of course recruiting volunteers will be high on the list of requirements. Feel free to contact the Society to volunteer, as there is always room for more people to help. The 2025 Gidgegannup Show will be held on Saturday 25 October. I do hope you all have a wonderful and safe Christmas. **Roll on 2025!**

## FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

**Messy Kids Create** is all about messy fun for kids aged 4 and up in Perth Hills.

With classes held in the school holidays, you can come and drop off the kids, where they will enjoy some messy fun activities while you do what you need to do! Book the kids in and we can make new friends, make some mess and the best part is you don't have to clean it up!

I'm **Bec** from **Messy Kids Create** and I can't wait for you to join us in the school holidays.



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# Amaroo Donates \$10,000 to Support Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade

In a generous show of community support, Amaroo Retreat & Spa has donated \$10,000 to the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, a critical force in the fight against bushfires in the Perth Hills region. The donation will directly aid the dedicated volunteers who bravely protect lives, property, and the environment each fire season.

Kirstin and Mike Westerman, owners of Amaroo Retreat & Spa, are committed to supporting the local community. *“Our region is no stranger to the risks of bushfires, and we are continually inspired by the selflessness and dedication of the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade. Supporting their efforts aligns with our ethos of community care and giving back to those who work tirelessly to protect us all. If you eat in our restaurant, enjoy a massage or stay overnight, you enable us to continue to support our wonderful hills community.”*

This contribution from Amaroo Retreat & Spa reflects the business's values as a corporate citizen and its commitment to nurturing a strong, resilient community. Amaroo has long championed local causes, seeing it as an essential part of the retreat's mission to not only serve as a sanctuary for relaxation but also as a vital contributor to the wellbeing of its neighbors. With this contribution, the total distributed to the community is over \$30,000.

Amaroo Retreat & Spa's donation will be put towards recognizing the dedication of the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade members, ensuring they receive the support, appreciation, and resources they so richly deserve. This gesture serves as a reminder of the power of community and the importance of supporting those who safeguard our lives and land.

For more information on how you can support the Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade, or to learn more about Amaroo Retreat & Spa's ongoing community initiatives, please contact:

[Manager@amarooretreat.com.au](mailto:Manager@amarooretreat.com.au)

[www.amarooretreat.com.au](http://www.amarooretreat.com.au)

## About Amaroo Retreat & Spa

Nestled in the heart of nature, Amaroo Retreat & Spa is a premier destination for those seeking a tranquil escape. Committed to enhancing the wellbeing of its guests and community, Amaroo proudly supports local causes and upholds values of integrity, care, and community service.

The Mount Helena Volunteer Bushfire Brigade plays a vital role in the local area, providing not only frontline firefighting services but also invaluable support for prevention efforts, community awareness, and rapid response in emergencies. This donation from Amaroo Retreat & Spa will help equip these volunteers with the tools and resources they need to stay safe and effective in their courageous work.



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## Shire of Mundaring extends access to Lake Leschenaultia

With the summer expected to be hotter than ever, Shire of Mundaring is pleased to share new measures that will allow visitors to enjoy Lake Leschenaultia more often during the fire season. Thanks to revised closure protocols and enhanced bushfire mitigation efforts, visitors can look forward to spending more time at this much-loved destination, while ensuring safety remains a top priority.

The introduction of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) prompted a review of Lake Leschenaultia's closure protocols, which had caused more frequent closures, even in milder conditions. Shire CEO Jason Whiteaker commissioned an independent risk assessment, resulting in a balanced plan for increased access while maintaining safety. Aligned with measures used by national parks and schools, the updated protocols were informed by the risk assessment, legislative guidelines, and technology, developed in consultation with the Shire's Bush Fire Advisory Committee and approved by Council.

The Shire, in partnership with DFES and local Bush Fire Brigade volunteers, conducted hazard reduction burns over 160 hectares and upgraded firebreaks, significantly lowering fuel loads. Ongoing maintenance and planned burns will keep the area safe while preserving its natural beauty.

Shire President Paige McNeil emphasised both the community's role in maintaining safety and the significant efforts that have made these changes possible:

*"Lake Leschenaultia is in a bushfire-prone area, and while we've done a lot to reduce risks, it's important for visitors to stay alert and follow instructions. Being prepared can save lives, and everyone has a part to play in ensuring safety,"* she said.

*"These changes have taken a lot of hard work and teamwork, including bushfire mitigation efforts and careful risk assessments. I want to thank everyone who's helped make Lake Leschenaultia a safe and welcoming place for our community to enjoy."*

Information about emergency procedures will be readily available at the lake, including through QR codes and signage. Visitors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these protocols before their visit. Further information is available on the Shire's website or by contacting Shire's Community Safety and Emergency Management team on (08) 9290 6666.



## FROM OUR ADVERTISER

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# PRIVATE POWER POLE INSPECTION

*A concerned Gidge resident recently sent the following message to the Gidgegram:*

*"Just recently I found three poles on a private property that showed very bad termite infestation. Western Power has it in their system to replace them but this highlights the fact that people need to inspect ALL poles that carry Western Power cables. We don't want a fire started by falling lines.*

*"Please ask readers to check their poles and call 13 13 51 Ext 2 (Emergency) to report the pole number and log the confirmation number from Western Power."*

Thank you to Geoff for taking the time to raise this very important topic.

**From the Western Power website:**

Both Western Power and property owners have private pole inspection obligations as follows:

1. *Western Power has a duty of care requiring it to periodically inspect the first private power pole on a property. This pole will be providing support to the Western Power service cable supplying electricity to the property.*
2. *Property owners have a duty of care to inspect, maintain and replace all of their private poles, including the first private power pole on a property.*
3. *The technical requirements and practices for the safe management of privately-owned power poles are detailed by State electricity safety regulator, Building and Energy. More information about private power poles can be found on the Building and Energy website.*



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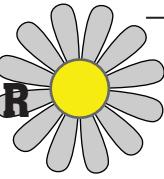
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**Christmas is ON OUR DOORSTEP! So it's time to get busy ...**

- **Mulch!** If you haven't already mulched your garden, don't delay. Use a good quality soil wetter on hydrophobic soils and get your mulch down. If you've laid mulch earlier in Spring, check to see how much has broken down and whether there are areas that need topping up.
- **Dead head and feed** your roses and other spring flowering plants like lavender that have finished to tidy them up and encourage another flush of flowers.
- **Get your garden and outdoor area ready for Christmas!** Tidy up pot plants in patio areas (indoor ones too!), trim off tired or dead growth, and repot them (just one size up if need be) with fresh soil for an instant pick-me-up. Treat hanging baskets and pots with a soil wetter if they're drying out too quickly or if possible move them to a more protected spot. Grab some potted colour of summer-loving flowers like petunias, portulaca, salvia and vincas to brighten up your entertaining area.
- **Fruit trees** should be netted and protected by now. Thin fruit crops so that you'll likely get a good crop the following year, too. Thinning fruit takes stress off the plant and encourages even fruiting patterns.
- **Put out water for birds and animals!** Now temperatures are climbing, a permanent water source, simply a bowl you top up, will be appreciated by creatures. A saucer with

pebbles or a stick that bees and wasps can use to climb out so they don't drown is a great idea. Check them daily but especially in heatwave conditions as your locals will come to depend on you. Good news - they'll be doing pest control duty when they visit!

- **Get your seedlings in for your summer crops.** You can still plant:

Basil, Beetroot, Capsicum, Chilli, Carrots, Chokos, Cucumber, Eggplant, Ginger, Leeks, Lettuce, Malabar Spinach, Okra, Parsnips, Pumpkin, Radish, Rockmelon, Rosella, Silverbeet, Snake Beans, Spring Onions, Squash, Strawberries, Sweet Corn, Sweet Potato, Tomatoes, Watermelon, Zucchini.

*Linda Mitchener*

**The Green Life Soil Co**

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# TRACTOR TALK

This month we can have a look at what are generally known as Compact Tractors, Sub-Compact Tractors and Utility Tractors.

Sub-Compacts are the smallest, usually up to around 25 HP on a smaller chassis and smaller wheel equipment with low ground clearance but when fitted with a front end loader can be very useful on a small block.

Compact Tractors cover a broader range and are generally in the 25-55 HP range, as the name suggests they are relatively compact making them very manoeuvrable around such fencelines, trees, sheds, stables, etc, as well as being great workhorses in open paddocks. These usually have 4WD, three point linkage, power steering and power take off outlets and, more often than not, a front loader with a 4-in-1 bucket. Ideally suited to small acreages up to around 50 acres, they can handle slashing/mowing, cultivators or rotary hoes for fire breaks etc, post hole diggers, sprayers, fertiliser spreaders and a host of other tasks around the farm.

Utility Tractors usually fall in the 50 -100 HP range and do the same as the compact tractor on a bigger scale.

It's important to remember that the implement should always be matched to the tractor size. So many times I see mismatched tractor/implement combinations and usually the tractor is blamed when it's not really at fault. A 30 HP tractor trying to operate a 6ft slasher is a good example; whilst in certain conditions it will drive the slasher, it's also got to lift it on the 3PL and a well-made 6ft slasher will be quite heavy, added to which the overhang at the rear makes it much harder to lift and light on the front end. Much better to go with a 4 or 5ft slasher.

Here is a good time to look at relevant Horsepower, using the slasher as an example. A 30 HP tractor will do the same job as a 50 HP tractor, the only difference will be that it takes longer but the end result will be the same.

Similar logic can be applied to ploughs, rotary hoes, sprayers, etc. Everything can easily be done with a Compact Tractor - it may take a bit longer than, say, a 70 HP Utility Tractor, but the 30 HP tractor will cost a lot less to buy and wins hands down if you're working in restricted areas, due to its greater manoeuvrability.

Give some careful thought when considering a tractor purchase and you may be able to save some dollars.



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Merry Christmas to all and see you in the New Year.



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# 78th Gidgegannup Agricultural Show



# RETHINK THE PROPOSED EASTLINK

The Rethink Eastlink Committee has been busy recently attending the Northam Farmers Show (14 September), the Toodyay Agricultural Show (5 October) and the Gidgegannup Show (26 October). We displayed detailed maps of the Ultimate Plan, as determined by Main Roads, as well as a video produced by kids at Eastern Hills High school. We fielded numerous queries about the proposed Eastlink; whilst most opposed the plan and a few supported it, the general feeling was that communities felt that the proposal should not proceed in its current format.

Many (*in fact all*) were in favour of road improvements of the existing Toodyay Road and Great Eastern Highway with provision of some more passing lanes and improvements around the Red Hill area. The proposal of alternative routes for east-west truck freight was also well received, such as Norseman to Hyden to Perth.

Furthermore, all were in favour of significant upgrading to the neglected rail freight network.

The Rethink Eastlink organisation is not against road improvements - just the scale of the proposed Eastlink cutting a swathe through farmland between Gidgegannup and where it rejoins Great Eastern Hwy near Wundowie and then continues to Northam.

We support well-thought-out projects that are low impact and maximise output. What is proposed is a dual carriageway of freeway standard with only limited access via on/off ramps and requiring new local feeder roads thus effectively increasing the road reserve to at least six lanes. If one allows for separations of traffic flows, this can be up to ten lanes wide, in parts. This is a highly invasive project with 171 landowners losing property.

Main Roads WA (MRWA) released the *"Ultimate Design"* Concept on 21/8/24. This was despite Rethink Eastlink's FOI application for this plan having been refused only weeks earlier on what are felt to be fairly generic grounds. The FOI request was made because of the significant delay in the release which was expected in late 2023.

MRWA will now propose a PCA (*Planning Control Area*) within the MRS of affected landowners. At this stage there is no forward funding for further progress in terms of land acquisition (*resumption*) in either the near or

foreseeable future.

The RE Committee met to discuss this development and is disappointed that a 1960s concept initiated 40 years ago is still progressing without taking onboard insight of modern road designs implemented over east and across the world. In fact many people did comment that because the plans have been on the books for so many years - *"it'll never happen"*. Also because it has been around and MRWA (*and politicians*) like new projects, doesn't mean it has to happen.

Other similar 60s plans such as the Stephenson Highway in the Western Suburbs, and Roe 8 have been significantly downgraded or abandoned in light of recognition of the environmental degradation that would have resulted.

Eastlink (*as proposed*) aims to redirect heavy vehicular traffic from Northam off GEH to Toodyay Road and then link into Roe Hwy in Stratton. It is said to reduce traffic transit time and improve safety. Time saved is measured in minutes (13-15) so this is a very expensive time saver. This may increase in the future with the recent downgrades in speed along GEH. Safety, of course is important, and would be more effective through improvements to existing roads, also cheaper.

It will reduce (*slightly*) the through traffic in Mundaring, but heavy vehicular through traffic is only a small component - most traffic is local on GEH in Mundaring.

What this project will do is introduce heavy traffic through Gidgegannup that will be running 24/7 with associated noise and light pollution (*significant light poles are required for a road of freeway standard*). These intrusions are likely to extend well beyond the landowners who are directly affected.

Whilst no budget has been set and there is yet to be confirmation that it will be funded, the Eastlink Project at 82 kms is nearly twice as long as the Northlink Project and through significantly different topography - granite/valleys/watercourses, versus the sand plain of Northlink. The cost will be several orders of magnitude greater (*billions*) and likely to take several years with associated disruption.

The Eastlink concept will result in the loss of thousands of mature trees, forested land and farmland. There will be significantly curtailed access to this road and local roads. The visual amenity of a tree-lined drive down Toodyay Road will become more of a concrete canyon effect.

Loss of through traffic through Gidgegannup will likely adversely affect local businesses and their viability.

In summary we believe this is a 1960s plan that is less relevant today and likely to become less relevant with improved technology and automation (*think autonomous vehicles and trains*).

We are for modern improvements and enhanced safety on Toodyay Road not outdated ones, not the behemoth monstrosity that has been proposed as *"Eastlink"*.

Main Roads' *"Ultimate Design"* is an archaic Epic Failure. It fails the community, it fails to implement modern solutions and it will be a long-lasting scar across our State if it is allowed to move ahead. People can look at the MRWA website or [rethinkeastlink.org](http://rethinkeastlink.org) for more information.

Membership of Rethink Eastlink is free - just add your email address on our webpage.





## GIDGEGANNUP AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY (INC) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2025

Please tick: SINGLE MEMBERSHIP  FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Membership runs from 1 January to 31 December in the year of application and fees are paid annually.

Full Name of Applicant: .....

Spouse/Partner Name: .....

Postal Address: .....

Email: .....

Phone: .....

Applicant to sign: .....

Spouse/Partner to sign: .....

Children attending primary & secondary school  
are included in Family Membership



Child 1 - Name & Date of Birth: .....

Child 2 - Name & Date of Birth: .....

Child 3 - Name & Date of Birth: .....

**If necessary, please attach additional family members' names separately.**

Annual Fees: Single: \$15.00 Family: \$30.00

Please forward your completed form and subscription fee to:

The Treasurer,  
Gidgegannup Agricultural Society (Inc),  
PO Box 22, Gidgegannup, WA, 6083.

Or email to [treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au](mailto:treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au) together with payment details

For EFT payment on line: BSB: 633108 Account: 120250147  
Reference: Your Name

Applications for membership will be considered at the earliest Committee Meeting of the Society.  
Members must be financial to vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

**[www.gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-agricultural-society/](http://www.gidgegannup.info/gidgegannup-agricultural-society/)**  
Queries: [secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au](mailto:secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au)

You are now supporting the annual  
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# IMPORTANT COMMUNITY NUMBERS

<b>POLICE EMERGENCIES</b> .....	<b>000</b>	<b>CWA GIDGEGANNUP</b>
MUNDARING POLICE (weekdays) .....	131 444	President Sara .....
MIDLAND POLICE (anytime) .....	9250 0333	Vice President Trish .....
POLICE Attendance .....	131 444	Terrianne - Treasurer / Community Coordinator .....
CRIME STOPPERS .....	1800 333 000	Open - Wed & Fri 10am - 2pm, Tues Nights 6:30pm - 8:30pm
<b>CITY OF SWAN</b> .....	<b>9267 9267</b>	<b>FRIENDS OF GIDGE RESERVE</b>
Paul Goodley - Community Development Coordinator .....	0427 163 317	Bill Karoll .....
Bushfire Recovery Team .....	0438 242 356	<b>GIDGEGANNUP RECREATION CENTRE</b>
busfirerecoverygroup@swan.wa.gov.au		President Mike Blackie .....
Total Movement and Harvest Bans .....	9267 9326	Secretary Carey Stewart .....
<b>FIRE EMERGENCIES</b> .....	<b>000</b>	Treasurer Eric Moses .....
<b>FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS- Gidge East</b>		
Sean Corbin .....	0427 999 856	Bookings secretary@gidgegannuprecclub.com.au and info@gidgegannuprecclub.com.au
Callum McCrudden (Captain) .....	0427 194 003	<b>GIDGEGANNUP JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB</b>
Alisdair McCrudden .....	0407 194 261	President: Mitchell Byrne .....
Shane Attwood .....	0419 961 749	email: president@gidgegannupjfc.org.au
Mike Edwards .....	0417 905 150	web: http://gidgegannupjfc.sportingpulse.net
<b>FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS - Gidge West</b>		
Justin Skewes (Capt) .....	0439 938 133	<b>FOOTBALL CLUB</b>
Mark Smith .....	0411 718 348	President Peter Whife .....
Steve Donnison .....	0409 084 087	<b>GIDGEGANNUP NETBALL CLUB</b>
Jason Kingston .....	0402 827 122	Registrar Lisa Atwill .....
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Administration: .....	0418 741 971	President Hayley Atwill .....
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<b>AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY</b>		
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Snr Vice President Hugh Burges .....	0401 571 680	gidgebasketball@gmail.com
Sec'y Carolyn Webster .... secretary@gidgeagsociety.com.au ...	0419 568 222	<b>SQUARE DANCING</b>
Treasurer Kay Williamson .....	treasurer@gidgeagsociety.com.au	Gordon & Esme Caine .....
Groundspace Helen Shalders .....	groundspace@gidgeagsociety.com.au	0403 056 019
Gidgegram: David Palmer ... art@greenmangraphics.com .....	0417 097 825	<b>GIDGEGANNUP MEN'S SHED</b>
<b>BOOKINGS HALL/SHOWGROUNDS City of Swan</b> .....		
<b>9267 9321</b>		
<b>BULLSBROOK POULTRY CLUB</b>		
Kyle Crane ... bullsbrookpoultryclub@outlook.com .....	0404 656 390	<b>GIDGEGANNUP PLAY GROUP</b> .....
<b>PROGRESS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Sally Block Chairperson .....	0418 928 549	gidgeplaygroup@gmail.com
<b>EXPERIENCE GIDGEGANNUP</b>		
Chairperson: Penny Morgan .....	0427 747 210	Enrolment Officer Larissa Dundon .....
Secretary: Felicity Morgan ..	felicity@felicitysgarden.com.au	0407 471 400
Bookings: Sally Block .....	0418 928 549	<b>GIDGEGANNUP SCOUT GROUP</b>
<b>GIDGEGANNUP COMMUNITY WEBSITE</b>		
www.gidgegannup.info - Email: admin@gidgegannup.info		Donna Feehan Scout Leader .....
President Peter Jensen .....	0402 910 707	9573 6707
<b>WARD COUNCILLORS</b>		
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Cr Rod Henderson .....	charlie.zannino@swan.wa.gov.au	9578 3242
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<b>WILDFLOWER SOCIETY</b>		
Vice-President - Fran Kininmonth .....	9478 3384	0437 886 014 ... gidgepcsecretary@outlook.com
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President, Tracey Dow .....	0412 778 343	<b>GIDGEGANNUP DRESSAGE CLUB</b>
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<b>REGAL HILL WATER SUPPLY ASS INC</b>		
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Treasurer Sam Earl .....	0491 273 194	
Secretary Gabrielle Elkins .....	08 9572 9020	

**Don't forget to update Community Numbers**

If your details have changed please send new details to [art@greenmangraphics.com](mailto:art@greenmangraphics.com)



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